



Insurance and Real Estate Committee
February 3, 2009

5671

Testimony of the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society would like your support for **HB 5671 - An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Prosthetic Devices.**

There are many people living with the loss or absence of a limb or body parts that are in need of a prosthetic device. Many of these people that are dealing with this loss are cancer patients and survivors that fought for their life, underwent agonizing treatments, and as a result, have a loss that deters them from living normal lives.

Those most commonly needed prostheses for people with cancer are prostheses for the breast, leg, and in some cases wigs that are used to cover the temporary hair loss that may occur with some kinds of chemotherapy, which can also be considered prostheses.

People that are in need of prostheses undergo discouraging obstacles when trying to obtain prosthetic care. Current changes in insurance coverage for prostheses threaten their ability to lead independent, productive lives, leaving them instead dependent on state and federal programs. Unable to afford prostheses, people with limb loss are at risk for dangerous and costly secondary conditions.

This bill will help those people obtain the proper prosthesis so they can live independent and productive lives, and feel better about themselves. There are many cancer survivors that have lost a leg or breast and are required to purchase a prosthesis that can cost over \$1,000. This should not be a requirement of a person that has just fought for their life.

Please support this important piece of legislation so that these individuals can obtain the appropriate prostheses and enjoy the life they fought for.